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Reprinted from *The Indian Medical Gazette*, Vol. LXVI.

(No. 3, March, 1931.)

THE ALL-INDIA INSTITUTE OF HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

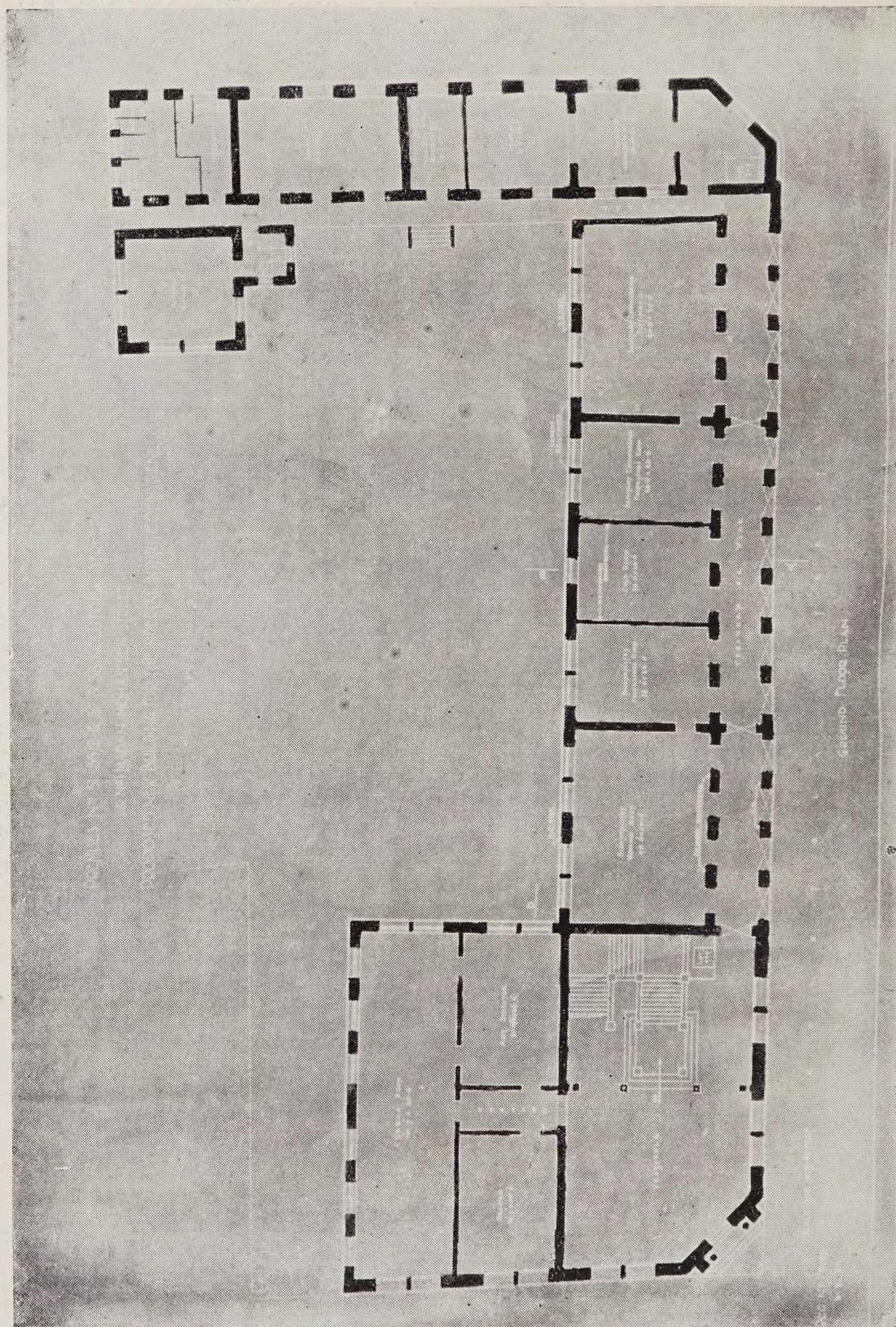
AN all-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health is at present being built in Calcutta by the munificence of the Rockefeller Foundation. The building will be completed by the end of 1931, and early in 1932, the Institute will be opened for work. Prior to 1920, medical graduates in India had to go to England or elsewhere to study tropical medicine and hygiene systematically. This was obviously incongruous, and in 1914 Sir Leonard Rogers conceived the idea of establishing institutes in India for post-graduate study in tropical medicine and hygiene. Sir Leonard's first idea was that there should be a School of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta, and an Institute of Hygiene in Bombay, and that both of these might be on an All-India basis. Various circumstances and considerations prevented these views from coming to fruition, but it was chiefly owing to Sir Leonard Rogers' perseverance and enthusiasm, and the generosity of the Governments of India and Bengal and various private benefactions that in 1920 the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine

and Hygiene was opened which combined teaching and research in both tropical medicine and hygiene. A Professorship in Hygiene was established, and a course of instruction arranged in the School for the Diploma of Public Health of the Calcutta University. There were obvious limitations to the scope and outlook of this arrangement. However enthusiastic one man may be, there are now so many aspects of public health both of temperate and tropical climates, each of which is rapidly developing and requires the full attention of a single worker and teacher, that it is impossible for a single person to combine the qualities or to find the time necessary to assimilate, digest and teach the diverse subjects comprising the entity known as modern public health. Workers highly trained in general hygiene and specialists in some particular branch are needed in India, and as time goes on and public health policy broadens and expands in all Indian provinces, the need for such workers trained in Indian needs and with Indian experience will be more and more required. Major-General J. D. Graham, C.I.E., I.M.S., the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, said in his Annual Report for 1925 (Section VIII):—

“The need of providing training for public health workers.—Certain conclusions have been forced upon me after careful study of the position over the last few years. It is becoming increasingly evident that a considerable section of the Indian community is thinking seriously on these public health problems.

This is a work which has to be done for the benefit of Indians. To be effective it must carry conviction and establish its position against immemorial conservatism and tradition, it must therefore be done by Indians. It presents a grand and unlimited field for public





Plan of the Ground Floor of the Ali-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health.

health workers, but it is well to recognize that the improvement cannot be achieved when the expert labourers are too few in number, that these cannot be increased to the requisite number without a careful system of specialised training in institutes or schools devoted to public health teaching and research, and that cannot be done without adequate financial support. The need for such training of Indian personnel has been advocated for the last two decades by our expert hygienists and research workers in India. It has often been represented, and not without justice, that scientific knowledge in regard to the prevention of certain communicable diseases has far outstripped its application in the field. It is with such a personnel that the practical application must finally rest."

As head of the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Major-General Megaw arrived at similar views, which were expressed from time to time in the Annual Reports of the School.

Dr. W. S. Carter, M.D., Associate Director of the Rockefeller Foundation, in his periodic tours of India and the Far East, met General Megaw and General Graham on various occasions and became deeply impressed with the necessity for establishing an all-India Institute of Hygiene. Much of the teaching in basic subjects, such as bacteriology and protozoology, for the Diploma of Public Health is similar to that for the Diploma of Tropical Medicine, and as this was being taught in the School of Tropical Medicine Dr. Carter at once grasped the obvious advantages of Calcutta as a location for an all-India institute, and of a site close to the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, where the basic subjects would continue to be taught. By this means it would be unnecessary to duplicate these courses, and at the same time the institute

would deal with purely public health subjects especially related to Indian requirements. As a result of discussion with General Megaw and others, Dr. Carter on behalf of the Rockefeller Foundation addressed the Government of India in terms embodying these proposals, offering to provide the cost of acquiring the site selected, and to build and equip an all-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, and further asking for the Government of India's assurance that they would meet the recurring cost of staff and maintenance after the building was handed over to them. The Government of India gratefully accepted this munificent offer and negotiations for the acquisition of the site were commenced. This was acquired finally in July 1930 and the site was cleared and building commenced in September. A Constructional Committee composed of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bengal, the Chief Engineer with the Government of Bengal, the Chairman of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, and the Accountant-General, Bengal, was appointed to arrange for the construction of the building. Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. Stewart, I.M.S., Professor of Hygiene in the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, was appointed Director-Designate of the new Institute, and Lieutenant-Colonel A. A. E. Baptist, M.B.E., I.M.D. (Retd.), Assistant Director, to superintend the actual details of construction and equipment. The Committee have entrusted the building of the Institute to Messrs. Martin & Co., Contractors, Calcutta, and have engaged Mr. T. Edmondson, Officiating Consulting Architect with the Government of Bengal, to advise them on technical points and to act as supervising architect. The site of the Institute practically adjoins the School of Tropical Medi-

cine in Central Avenue, with which it will harmonise in design and appearance. The plan is based on the "unit room" system, the unit room being 25 by 21 feet. The building is four storeyed and is E shaped, the long limb being in the centre. Six sections will be accommodated, viz., (1) Public Health Administration, (2) Sanitary Engineering, (3) Vital Statistics and Epidemiology, (4) Biochemistry and Nutrition, (5) Malariology and Rural Hygiene, and (6) Maternity and Child Welfare and School Hygiene. Each section will be given one unit room for the head of the section and two unit rooms for the workers. The working sections are placed in the central limb of the building, facing north with an excellent and unimpeded north light. In the west block are placed the administrative rooms, lecture theatre, practical class rooms, museum, and a large auditorium to seat 200 people. The eastern limb will house store rooms, common room, and lunch room for students, spare working rooms and lavatories, while a separate annexe provides for an animal room on each floor. The library is in the centre block on the top floor. Three unit rooms on each floor and the library and reading room will be provided with conditioned air during the hot months of the year. The head of each section will thus have a cooled room and in addition there will be a spare cooled unit room on each floor where workers on that floor may work in comfort, or engage in any special work requiring a cooled atmosphere. The installation of the cooling plant has been entrusted to the Air Conditioning Corporation, Ltd.

Each section will be staffed by a Professor, an Assistant Professor, and laboratory or other assistants. The primary object of the Institute is to bridge over the gulf between the results achieved by pure research and their practical

application to the community. Its function will therefore primarily be that of instruction. The subjects for the Diploma of Public Health, Part I (Bacteriology, Protozoology and Public Health Laboratory Practice), will continue to be taught by the staff of the School of Tropical Medicine, but the specialised subjects in Public Health will be taught by the staff of the Institute, each Professor dealing with his specialised subject. The examination for the D. P. H. is conducted by the University of Calcutta, with which the new Institute will in due course be affiliated. It is also intended to provide short post-graduate instruction in special subjects for public health workers desiring to pursue advanced study, and it is probable that the University will institute a higher degree or doctorate in public health science which will require a year's training in the Institute in some special branch of public health science. Considering the importance of maternity and child welfare work and public health nursing, it is contemplated that special courses in these subjects may be instituted for women graduates and nurses respectively. The Institute will be co-ordinated with the various aspects of practical hygiene and public health all over India, and it is hoped will be able to render assistance to public health administrators and workers, and institute enquiries and investigations of a practical nature in the application of medical research and knowledge for the betterment of the Indian people.

The Institute building will, in the ordinary course of events, be completed by 31st December, 1931, and it is hoped to appoint the staff and to start work on the 1st January, 1932.

The foregoing note written some months ago gives a short account of the inception of the Institute. Since it was written, work has

steadily progressed and it may be confidently stated that the building will be ready for occupation on the 1st January, 1932. It is not the intention at present to spend immediately all the amount ear-marked for equipment. All necessities for teaching are being provided now, but in the various sections, only such apparatus as is likely to be required at once is being bought. Expensive apparatus for biochemical, or malarial work, or for sanitary engineering, if purchased now, might not be to the liking or taste of the professor appointed. We therefore propose to defer completing the more expensive equipment of certain sections until the staff has been appointed.

Budget proposals were submitted some time ago for staff and maintenance, and in submitting these Government was requested to make provision so that the staff could be appointed by the 1st of January, 1932, and work commenced on that date. Government's decision on these matters is awaited.

The scope of work of the Institute as a whole and of the particular sections is of great importance, as also the relationships of the Institute and its sections to existing institutions and to workers already engaged in work or investigations cognate to that with which the Institute will deal. These important matters were fully discussed at a conference in Calcutta in November 1930 presided over by the Director-General. This conference concluded that while such relationships between the Institute and other workers and institutions in India should be intimate, it would be premature at the present moment to attempt to lay down any definite measures of such collaboration until the staff of the Institute had been appointed; contact and co-operation should be allowed to develop naturally and spontaneously.



